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Newspaper Obituaries; Book 1 (I-L)

Afro-American Historical Association of the Niagara Frontier

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David Lewis Jackson, teacher

David Lewis Jackson, 53, a Buffalo native and teacher, died Saturday (April 1, 2000) in his home after a brief illness.

Jackson graduated from Burghard Vocational High School and worked for Bethlehem Steel Corp. before joining the Army. He was a combat veteran of the Vietnam War and rose to the rank of sergeant first class.

Jackson also served as a platoon sergeant in the Army National Guard. In 1978, he was honored as an outstanding serviceman.

He was a member of Bennett-Wells Post 1780, American Legion.

He was a teacher for 26 years at the BUILD Academy.

From 1978 to 1983, he also worked summers teaching auto mechanics throughout Western New York, through the Comprehensive Education and Training Act. He

also dedicated many hours as a volunteer tutor.

For several years, Jackson served as chairman of the Juneteenth Festival. He also served as liaison to the National Guard.

Jackson enjoyed reading, constructing model airplanes and listening to R&B music.

Survivors include his wife, the former Clarissa Reid; a son, Jeffrey Reid of Atlanta; two daughters, Monique Reid and Jamilla Mobley; his mother, Merna E. Jackson; a brother, Charles N.; a sister, Dolores Johnson of Cambridge, Mass.; and three grandsons.

Services will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday in New Covenant United Church of Christ, 459 Clinton St.



Leedell Jackson

Leedell Jackson, known as "Mother Jackson," a housekeeper, died Saturday (July 20, 2002) in the Delaware Heights Health Care Facility after a long illness. She was 101.

Mrs. Jackson was born in Thomasville, Ala. She moved to Buffalo in 1937.



For more than 50 years she worked as a housekeeper for Dr. and Mrs. G.H. Marcy and their family.

She was a member of Greater Emmanuel Temple in Buffalo. At the church she served in the Sunday school, the Flower Committee and the Nurses Guild.

She and her husband, the late Henry Jackson, were married for many years.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday in Greater Emmanuel Temple, 151 Richmond Ave. Entombment will be in Forest Lawn's Rosewood Mausoleum.

Lillian Lewis Jackson

Lillian Lewis Jackson, 74, a longtime Buffalo resident and former employee of the Buffalo Public Schools, died Thursday (July 4, 1996) at home.

Mrs. Lewis, a native of Jackson, Miss., moved to Lockport with her family when she was young. She attended Lockport public schools and graduated from Lockport High School.



After her family moved to Buffalo, she married Leroy W. Jackson Jr. in 1943. He is deceased.

She worked as a crossing guard for the Buffalo Police Department and later as a library aide in the Buffalo school system. She retired in the early 1970s.

She was a member of Loguen Memorial AME Zion Church on Genesee Street.

Survivors include a daughter, Cynthia J. McPheeters; a son, Leroy W. III; a brother, John Lewis; three grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.

Services will be held at 1 p.m. Tuesday in Mount Zion Church of God and Holiness, 32 Oakgrove St. Burial will be in Forest Lawn.

William E. Jackson, youth services director

William E. Jackson, 90, a former Buffalo resident and longtime program director at the Urban League's Cedar Street Community Center, died Dec. 5, 1997, in Springfield Gardens, Queens, after an illness of several years.

The Buffalo native was a graduate of Buffalo State College.

He was employed by the Urban League in the 1930s to direct its youth services. He coached basketball and was the leader of Boy Scout Troop 103, some of whose members went on to become community leaders, including Robert T. Coles, architect; George Arthur

and Clifford Bell, past Common Council members; and Leroy Coles, Urban League executive.

Jackson left Buffalo in 1945 to work for Ebony magazine. He was credited with originating the idea for the annual Ebony Fashion Fair. Later, he worked as a teacher and acting assistant principal in a Brooklyn junior high school.

Survivors include his wife of 55 years, Bernice.

Services were held in New York.

• *More Obituaries/ D3*

Edward James, deputy fire commissioner

Edward W. James, a retired deputy commissioner in the Buffalo Fire Department, died Thursday (April 10, 2003) in his Buffalo home after a lengthy illness. He was 73.

James was born in Lafayette, Ala., and had lived in this area since 1937. He worked for the Fire Department from 1954 until his retirement in 1995. He received many awards, including the Arthur Kenworthy Award for bravery and the Carl Hitchcock Award for merito-



rious service.

He was an Air Force veteran of the Korean War. James was a member of MOCHA (Men of Color Helping All), a black firefighters group, and of Young Democrats.

Survivors include his wife, the former Jacqueline Blodgett of Buffalo; a daughter, Esperanza King of Amherst; five sons, Craig, Mark and Michael of Buffalo, Colyer of Plainfield, N.J., and Charles of Albany; and seven grandchildren.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be offered at 10 a.m. Tuesday in Blessed Sacrament Church, 1035 Delaware Ave. Burial will be in Forest Lawn.

JAMES—Mattie Sue

Of Buffalo, NY, entered into rest September 18, 1997, beloved mother of Roland James and the late Kenneth Peterson and Reginald Williams; also survived by 10 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Friends and family may call Wednesday 7-9 PM at the THOMAS T. EDWARDS FUNERAL HOME INC., 995 Genesee St. Services Thursday at 11 AM at First Shiloh Baptist Church, 15 Pine St. Interment Buffalo Cemetery.

JETER—Anna Echols Parson

July 17, 1999. Funeral services were conducted in Richmond, VA. Family will be present for visitation Friday 12-2 PM at First Shiloh Baptist Church, 15 Pine St. Interment Forest Lawn Cemetery. Arrangements by H. ALFRED LEWIS MORTUARY INC.

JOHNSON—John H., Jr.



Suddenly November 29,
2000, companion of Mary
Alice Grandberry; father of
Gloria D. Long; brother of

Verzel Johnson; also survived by five
grandchildren, several great-grandchil-
dren and other relatives. The family will
receive friends Sunday 3 PM at THOMAS
T. EDWARDS FUNERAL HOME, INC., 995
Genesee St., where funeral services will
follow at 4 PM.

Evelyn C. Johnson, child-welfare worker

Services for Evelyn C. Johnson, 82, retired Erie County adoption placement child-welfare worker and one of the founders of Delta Sigma Theta-Gamma Kappa Alumni Chapter, will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday in First Presbyterian Church, 1 Symphony Circle. Burial will be in Forest Lawn.

Mrs. Johnson, a native of New York City, died Tuesday (Jan. 17, 1995) in Buffalo General Hospital.

The former Evelyn Warner graduated in 1938 from West Virginia State College. In 1939, she



married Dr. S. Calvin Johnson, one of the first black physicians to establish medical practices in both Buffalo and Lackawanna. He died in 1987.

In 1943, she was appointed to the Buffalo Mayor's Advisory Health Board. She was the first black to be appointed to the board.

From 1957 to 1981, she was employed as an adoption placement child-welfare worker.

She was also a founding member of the Buffalo Chapter of Girlfriends Inc. and a founder of the local chapter of Jack and Jill.

Surviving are a daughter, Sinnette Denson; a son, Samuel C. Jr.; and four grandchildren.

Jack Johnson, retired master plumber

Jack Johnson, 79, of Buffalo, retired master plumber and engineer for the Erie County Correctional Facility, died Thursday (Jan. 3, 2002) in Erie County Medical Center after a lengthy illness.

He was born in Cleveland and moved to Buffalo at an early age. He attended Hutchinson Central High School in Buffalo.

He worked as a trolley car/bus driver for Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority in the early 1940s.



He also was a professional trumpet and tenor saxophone player with the Villa Sextet.

Johnson was a third-degree Mason. He was a lover of fishing and fine dining and was known for his quick wit and sharp sense of humor.

He is survived by three daughters, Diane Johnson and Jackie Hennings, both of Buffalo, and Lorraine Jackson of Washington, D.C.; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Services will be held at 11 a.m. Monday in J.W. Loguen Memorial AME Zion Church, 210 Southampton St. Burial will be in Forest Lawn.

Julia A. Johnson, concert pianist, organist

A service for Julia A. Johnson, a concert pianist and organist who taught and performed music in Buffalo for 72 years, will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday in St. Philip's Episcopal Church, 15 Fernhill Ave. Burial will be in Forest Lawn.

Mrs. Johnson, 95, the first black woman accepted to the Buffalo Conservatory of Music, died Friday (Feb. 10, 1995) in Buffalo General Hospital.



1975 Photo

Born in Philadelphia, the former Julia Hurt came to the Buffalo area with her parents in 1903. She began studying music at the age of 6 under her mother, Essie Hurt, a concert cellist who had studied at Fisk University in Nashville, Tenn.

By the time she was 14, she was organist for First Shiloh Baptist Church and assistant organist for Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church. She attended the former Fosdick-Masten High School.

In 1918, she entered the Buffalo Conservatory of Music. In her second year at the conservatory, she was awarded the school's first scholarship in piano.

From 1931 to 1941, she taught

sight singing, voice, theory and piano through the federally funded programs, including the Works Progress Administration, which later became the Works Projects Administration.

Through the WPA, she organized a Vocalion Chorus of 32 young black singers and directed the group in a Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra summer pops concert in 1941.

In 1954, the Music Teachers Forum of Erie and Niagara counties selected Mrs. Johnson to perform in the Steinway centenary concert with the Buffalo Philharmonic.

In the mid-1970s, she was music mistress at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church in Fort Erie, Ont.

Over the years, she was also organist at St. Philip's Episcopal, Humboldt Baptist and St. Nicholas Catholic churches.

At her death, she was a member of St. Philip's Episcopal Church and the Music Teachers Forum and American Guild of Organists.

She and her first husband, the late J. Luther Sylvahn, were divorced about 1935. Her second husband, pianist and jazz musician Ballard "Benny" Johnson, died in 1987 after 40 years of marriage.

Survivors include a daughter, Vashti Sylvahn Marshall; a granddaughter; and a great-grandson.

Thad Johnson, Social Services supervisor

Services for Thad Johnson, 87, a retired district supervisor for the Erie County Department of Social Services, will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday in Thomas T. Edwards Funeral Home, 995 Genesee St. Burial will be scheduled.

Johnson, a native of Dillon, N.C., died Saturday (Feb. 24, 2001) in Sheehan Memorial Hospital after a long illness.

He came to Buffalo with his family when he was 12 years old. He lettered in track, cross country and basketball at Hutchinson-Central High School. He served four



years in the Army Air Forces during World War II.

Johnson received a bachelor's degree in social work and later a master's degree from the University of Buffalo.

He worked for the Department of Social Services for 19 years and was a district supervisor when he retired in 1975.

He enjoyed bowling and participated in many tournaments.

Survivors include his wife, the former Sarah H. Vernon; two daughters, Berea Wingard of Fort Wayne, Ind., and Carolyn Platt of Buffalo; two sons, Joel of California and Michael of New York City; a sister, Elizabeth of Buffalo; 11 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

OBITUARIES

Lafayette Jones Sr., landscaping business founder

Lafayette Jones Sr., 77, a longtime Buffalo resident, died last Tuesday (Aug. 12, 1997) in Forsyth Memorial Hospital, Winston-Salem, N.C., after a lengthy illness.

Born in McCormick, S.C., Jones moved to Buffalo with his family when he was 2. He attended First Shiloh Baptist Church, School 31 and Hutchinson-Central High School.

During high school, he became financially independent as the largest vendor in the African-American community for the Courier-Express.

He served in the Army during World War II. He trained as a medic at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, and his task force, the Army Air Corps Medical Unit, served the celebrated Tuskegee Airmen. He received the Army Theater Campaign Medal of Victory.

In 1945, he began his 33 years of service with the U.S. Postal Service in Buffalo. During that time, he formed the Buffalo chapter of the National Postal Workers Alliance.

He also founded and operated a family-owned business, Lafayette Landscaping, from 1950 to 1990. He and his family were involved in street vending for many years, selling cut flowers and potted plants on Easter and Mother's Day.

Survivors include his wife of 54 years, the former Jimmie Ruth; a son, Lafayette of Winston-Salem; a daughter, Jeanette Jones Stevenson of Kansas City, Mo.; and a brother, James of New York City.

Services were held Friday in Golar Memorial African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in Winston-Salem. Burial was in Salisbury National Veterans Cemetery, Salisbury, N.C.

Paul Lawrence Dunbar Jones, businessman

Paul Lawrence Dunbar Jones, 92, a retired businessman, died Sunday (June 18, 2000) in Veterans Administration Medical Center after a brief illness.

Born in New Albany, Miss., he came with his family to Buffalo in 1922. He attended School 13 and Hutchinson-Central High School.

As a young man, he played the saxophone and served as a fill-in player when big bands came to Buffalo in the 1930s. He also worked as a Pullman railroad car porter.

He joined the Army and served in World War II, attaining the rank of sergeant.

Returning after the war, he followed the example of his father and uncle and became a businessman. After a brief time as partner in Tip



Top Cleaners, a dry-cleaning shop on the East Side, he opened Paul's Cleaners on Pine Street, which he and his wife operated for more than 20 years.

Closing the business in the early 1970s, he worked in food service at Veterans Hospital, took courses at the University at Buffalo's Millard Fillmore College and Bryant & Stratton and became a real estate agent. He established Paul L. Jones Real Estate Co. and operated it for more than 20 years.

Active in First Shiloh Baptist Church for 76 years, he served as secretary of its laymen's league. He also attended the Moot Center.

Surviving are his wife of 53 years, Lucy Izzard Jones; a son, Robert E. of Williamsville; a daughter, Paulette J. Smith of New Orleans; and three grandchildren.

Services will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday in First Shiloh Church, 15 Pine St., after a wake at 10. Burial will be in St. Matthews Cemetery, West Seneca.

John B. Joseph, honored for WWII valor

John B. Joseph, 83, who was decorated for bravery during World War II, died Friday (July 21, 2000) in Millard Fillmore Hospital after a lengthy illness.

Born in Birmingham, Ala., he came to Buffalo with his family as a child and attended Buffalo Technical High School.

An Army veteran of World War II, he received the Soldier's Medal, the highest award for bravery not involving conflict with the enemy, for his actions in rescuing wounded and trapped soldiers from the hold of a Liberty ship that was torpedoed near Palermo, Sicily.

When high water forced him to



leave the hold, he helped build emergency evacuation craft on deck until the captain ordered him to leave the sinking ship.

Returning to civilian life, he worked as a laborer at Republic Steel Corp. for 42 years.

Known as a quiet, peaceful man, he was a member of Lincoln Memorial United Methodist Church.

He married Hattie Watson in 1965 and helped raise three grandsons.

Survivors, in addition to his wife and grandsons, include a stepdaughter, Sharon Hearon; and a sister, Mable "Blanche" Joseph.

Services will be held at noon Wednesday in Lincoln Memorial United Methodist Church, 641 Masten Ave. Burial, with military honors, will be in Forest Lawn.

KELLEY—Albert E. Jr. (Bunny)

After a long illness, entered into eternal rest in the Buffalo General Hospital, January 24, 1995, husband of Genevieve (nee Thomas); dearest father of Kimberlee Louise; brother of Thelma (Edward) Stenhouse, Helen (Floyd) Edwards, Betty (Robert) Rogers, Theodora Bynes, Patricia Kelley, Diane Kelley, Barbara (James) Patton, Charles (Louise) Kelley and Jimmie (Peggy) Kelley; also survived by many nieces, nephews and friends. Friends may call at the Agape A.M.E. Church, 224 Northland Ave. Friday 7-9 PM where funeral service will be held Saturday at 1 PM. Arrangements by THOMAS T. EDWARDS FUNERAL HOME, INC

Leon E. Kelley Jr., VA retiree served in Marines, Guard, Navy

Nov. 2, 1937 — Dec. 4, 2007



Leon E. Kelley Jr. of Buffalo, who followed a lengthy career as an active duty serviceman by working at Buffalo's Veterans Affairs Medical Center, died unexpect-

edly Tuesday in Millard Fillmore Hospital. He was 70.

Born in Buffalo, he attended St. Lucy's School and School 6. Later he earned a degree from

Erie Community College and attended Buffalo State College.

He served in the Marine Corps from 1954 to 1957, was a member of the Army National Guard from 1958 to 1962, then went into the Navy, serving from 1965 to 1975. In the military, he was a ship's serviceman and managed a club for enlisted men.

Mr. Kelley worked as a custodian at the VA Medical Center from 1985 until he retired in 2001.

He was a member of St. Lou-

is Catholic Church; Post 188, Disabled American Veterans; and the National Rifle Association. He was a life member of the NAACP and a martial arts enthusiast.

Surviving are a son, Ezkwin Mosby; two daughters, Ladine Davis and Monique Hatton; and four brothers, Joseph D. Gilbert, Melvin, Charles and Cranston.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be offered at 9:30 a.m. Monday in St. Louis Church, Main and Edward streets.

Genevieve R. Kelley, active in church, community

Genevieve R. Kelley, 71, a retired NFTA employee and a Common Council member's secretary who was active in her church and community, died last Thursday (Dec. 4, 1997) in Roswell Park Cancer Institute after a brief illness.

The former Genevieve Thomas was born in Buffalo, where she attended public schools, graduating from Hutchinson Central High School in 1945. She also studied at the Buffalo School of Beauty Culture and was employed as a manicurist at the Humes Style & Beauty Salon.

For a short time, Mrs. Kelley also was a Metro bus driver. She then became secretary for Masten Council Member Horace "Billy" Johnson, a position she held for several years in the 1970s.

Mrs. Kelley then worked in the affirmative action and public relations departments at the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority



until she retired two years ago.

She was a 60-year member of Friendship Baptist Church, serving as a trustee for many years.

Mrs. Kelley served as a Democratic committeewoman and was co-founder of the Bronze Damsels social club. She also was a past worthy matron of Paramount Chapter 57, Order of Eastern Star, and a member of Court 62, Daughters of Isis Hadji.

Her husband, Albert "Bunny" Kelley, died in 1995.

Surviving include a daughter, Kimberlee L.; two brothers, Ernest Thomas of New Jersey and Edward Thomas; and a loving companion, John Shelton.

Services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday in Friendship Church, 402 Clinton St.

• Additional Obituaries / A22

KELLEY—Genevieve Ruth (nee Thomas)

December 4, 1997, beloved mother of Kimberlee L. Kelley; sister of Edward Thomas, Ernest Thomas (Dorothy) and dear friend of John Shelton. Friends are invited to visit Friday 2-9 PM at Friendship Baptist Church, 402 Clinton St., where funeral service will be conducted Saturday at 11 AM. Family will be present at the Church on Friday from 7-9 PM during fraternal services. Interment in Forest Lawn Cemetery. Arrangements by THOMAS T. EDWARDS FUNERAL HOME.

Jimmie L. Kelley, retired millwright

Jimmie L. Kelley, 62, a retired millwright, died Saturday (June 19, 1999) at Mitchell Campus of Hospice Buffalo, Cheektowaga, after a long illness.

Born in Buffalo, he attended School 31 and East High School before graduating from Bennett High School. He was an Army paratrooper, serving in France and



Germany, and trained as a photographer.

He worked at the General Motors Tonawanda Engine Plant in the 1960s and was an iron worker at Bethlehem Steel Corp. in Lackawanna in the early '70s.

He opened William's Hickory Deli at 358 William St. in 1972 and operated it for four years. He also returned to the Tonawanda Engine Plant in 1972 as an apprentice millwright. He retired as a millwright earlier this year.

A member of Local 774, United Auto Workers, he also served as a committeeman. He was a member of Delaware Avenue Baptist Church.

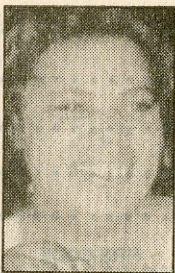
He played amateur baseball in many leagues throughout Buffalo for much of his life and was an avid baseball fan. He also was a dedicated photographer and took pictures of family and friends.

Surviving are his wife, the former Margaret L. Brown; three sons, Timothy L. of District Heights, Md., Numayr of Miami and Brian of Houston; six sisters, Thelma Stenhouse, Betty Rogers, Theodora Bynes, Diane and Barbara Patton, all of Buffalo, and Helen Edwards of Amherst; and four grandchildren.

Services will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday in Delaware Avenue Baptist Church, 965 Delaware Ave. Burial will be in Forest Lawn.

Patricia Joan Kelley

Patricia Joan Kelley, 63, a retired Erie County employee, died Monday (Aug. 12, 1996) after apparently suffering a heart attack as she stepped from her car and collapsed on High Street. She was pronounced dead in Buffalo General Hospital.



Miss Kelley, who lived all of her life in Buffalo, attended School 31 and graduated in 1951 from Hutchinson-Central High School. She attended Erie Community College.

She worked for a cleaning establishment and a restaurant before going to work for the county in family health-care centers.

Miss Kelley worked for the county for 25 years until her retirement in 1995. She was a charter member of Agape African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Survivors include six sisters, Thelma Stenhouse, Helen Edwards, Betty Rogers, Theodora Bynes, Diane Kelley and Barbara Patton, and two brothers, Charles and Jimmie.

Services will be held at 11 a.m. Friday in Agape Church, 224 Northland Ave. Burial will be in Forest Lawn.

Adam Frederick King, special-education teacher

Services for Adam Frederick King, 77, retired special-education teacher and an Army veteran of World War II, will be held at 11 a.m. Friday in St. Philip's Episcopal Church, 18 Sussex St. near Gridder Street. Burial will be in Forest Lawn.

King, a native of West Point, Miss., died Friday (Nov. 8, 1996) in Veterans Hospital after a long illness.

He grew up in Fairmount, W.Va., where he was an honor student in high school, and served in the Army in Europe during World War II. After the war, he earned a bachelor of arts degree from West Virginia State College.



King, who was known as "Jake," was a steel mill worker and then a Thruway toll collector in the Buffalo area before going to work for the Buffalo Public Schools as a special-education teacher. He was active with the Buffalo Teachers Federation for many years until his retirement in 1985.

Survivors include his wife of 30 years, the former Cordelle Walcott; a son, Darryl; five sisters, Rozier Brown-Asbury, Leora Tompkins and Amy Palmer, all of Detroit, Sammie Mae Sheppard of Washington, D.C., and Mildred Robinson of Pleasanton, Calif.; four brothers, James King of Decatur, Ill., Albert Adams of Manton, Pa., James D. Jenkins of Warren, Ohio, and Clifford Brown of Dayton, Ohio; and three grandchildren.

KIRK—Eugene Sr.



Entered into rest April 4, 2000, loving husband of Mable Pate Kirk, father of Frances (Jim) Tapscott, Cammie Kirk, Adeyb Mummen "Eugene Kirk Jr.", Vinton Kirk, Yolanda Kirk Woodsmall and Reverend Ronald Kirk; survived by a host of relatives and friends. Family will receive friends on Saturday 10 AM at Evening Star C.O.G.I.C., 1525 Fillmore Ave. Funeral 11 AM. Interment at Forest Lawn Cemetery. Arrangements by PROVIDENCE MEMORIAL CHAPEL.

LEYO—

KIRKLAND—Haywood

January 5, 1997; beloved husband of Lucille Kirkland; survived by seven children, many grand and great grandchildren; also two brothers and three sisters. Memorial service to be held at the convenience of the family. Arrangements by MEMORIAL CHAPEL, INC

Glowver Knight, helped form senior center

Glowver Knight, 81, retired postal worker, World War II veteran and one of the persons instrumental in the establishment of the Moot Senior Center at 292 High St., died Friday (Nov. 25, 1994) in Sisters Hospital after a long illness.



Born in Thom-
asville, Ga., he
moved to Buffalo
with his family in
1917 when he was
4 years old. He attended Buffalo
Public Schools 32, 47 and 31 and
graduated from Masten High
School.

He served in the Army during
World War II and was stationed
in England and Scotland. He was
employed by the Standard Oil Co.,
Buffalo Arms and Ford Motor Co.
before going to work for the U.S.
Post Office. He retired from the
postal service in 1977 after 40
years.

Knight joined the Moot Center
in 1976 and served as vice presi-
dent of the Senior Citizen Club,
the Men's Club and Site Council
and as president of the Travel
Club.

He also served as president of
the Postal Alliance for 10 years.

While working as a mail carrier
in the Fruit Belt, he brought to
the attention of senior citizens and
government agencies that the
building at 292 High St. was va-
cant and available for the center.
Fund-raisers were held and grants
received. It became the Moot Se-
nior Center in 1981.

He traveled to all 50 states and
was an avid pinochle player.

Knight belonged to the AM-
VETS and National Association
for the Advancement of Colored
People. He was a member of the
Bethel AME Zion Church since
1918.

He received Superior Accom-
plishment and Special Achieve-
ment awards from the Postal Ser-
vice and Outstanding Service
Award from Moot Senior Center.
He also was honored with the
Outstanding Volunteer Service
Award by the Citizens Community
Development Corp.

Survivors include a sister,
Frances K. Hall of Buffalo.

Knight never married. After the
death of his father, David Knight,
he remained single and took care
of his mother, Bessie Knight, who
lived to be 103 years old.

Services will be held at 1:30
p.m. Tuesday in Bethel AME
Church, 1525 Michigan Ave. Buri-
al will be in Forest Lawn.

OBITUARIES

Trombonist Eli Konikoff dies; Dixieland band leader was 80

Eli Konikoff, the Buffalo area's premiere Dixieland jazz band leader in the 1960s, died Monday (Jan. 8, 1996) in Buffalo General Hospital after a brief illness. He was 80.

Services were held today in Delaware Park Memorial Chapel.

Konikoff, a trombonist, played his final engagement on New Year's Eve, leading a quartet at the Buffalo Yacht Club. He also sang a number of songs and told jokes that night.

"I knocked them out of the box," he said afterwards, with characteristic enthusiasm.

He began playing trombone while attending Buffalo School 31.

"I was in the sixth, seventh grade and I wanted to play in the school band, and I didn't want to play the trombone," he told The Buffalo News in a 1975 interview. "But it was the only instrument they had left." He built his reputation playing with the bands of Woody Herman, Wild Bill Davidson and Jack Mayhew. He turned to Dixieland during the traditional-jazz revival in the 1950s and created the Yankee Six, which he led from 1958 to 1973.

Eli Konikoff and the Yankee Six played six-nights-a-week engagements at the Town Casino, where they shared the stage with such entertainers as Frank Sinatra and Tony Bennett. The Yankee Six was featured on Bob Wells' weekly "Music Appreciation Night" television show on Ch. 2 in the early 1960s.

Konikoff, known for his jokes and his magnetic charm, earned thousands of devoted fans who followed him and his band from engagement to engagement.

During the peak of his career, he followed a grueling schedule that saw him rising at 6:30 a.m. to join his brothers in running Custom Cleaners on Hertel Avenue. Then, after a nap, he would be back on the bandstand.

In 1971, he was a principal



Eli Konikoff

player with an all-star Dixieland band that toured the U.S. After the Yankee Six disbanded, he continued to play regularly at parties and clubs with groups such as the Morgan Street Stompers and, more recently, Sentimental Journey. He also lent his talents to numerous charitable causes, performing on fund-raising telethons and other events.

His love of music inspired the rest of his family. His wife of 48 years, the former Frances Evers, sang with the Sweet Adelines. All his sons and daughters have performed professionally.

One son, Ross, has played with Buddy Rich and Liza Minnelli. The other, Mark, also known as Eli, played drums with Spyro Gyra.

Konikoff was honored on his 70th birthday in 1985 when Mayor Jimmy Griffin proclaimed it Eli Konikoff Day, citing him as "a man of exceptional personal integrity and a professional musician of unparalleled quality."

In addition to his wife and two sons, Ross of New York City and Mark "Eli" of Hamburg, survivors include two daughters, Barbara Schlotterer of Rome, N.Y., and Randi of Winston-Salem, N.C.; a brother, Bernard "Babe"; and eight grandchildren.

LACY—Rosebud

November 1, 2002, wife of the late Melvin Lacy; dearest mother of Jacquelyn C. Hargrave; grandmother of Denise (Clinton) Landy; great-grandmother of C.J. Landy; adopted grandmother of Desiree (Marcus) Nix; adopted great-grandmother of Markii and Darius Nix all of Albany, NY; sister of Ida Hayes and the late Willie Mae and Thomas Hayes; aunt of Dan (Joanne) Workman; also survived by a host of other relatives and friends. The family will receive friends Tuesday 11 AM at the First Shiloh Baptist Church, 15 Pine St., where funeral services will follow at 12:30 PM. Interment Forest Lawn Cemetery. Arrangements by THOMAS T. EDWARDS FUNERAL HOME, INC.

Ronnie Latham, director of African dance troupe

Ronnie Latham, the director and choreographer of the African-American Cultural Center's dance troupe for more than a decade and a key teacher of African heritage dance in Western New York, died Friday (Oct. 4, 1996) in Buffalo General Hospital after a long illness.

Latham, 40, began studying dance and particularly African dance from the age of 12. His first instructor was Glennis Green. He was named director of the center's popular dance troupe in 1980 and choreographed the group's first appearance at Artpark in Lewiston that year.

Latham attended Lafayette High School. Locally, he studied with Kariamuw Welsh Ashante at the former Center for Positive Thought on East Utica Street near Main Street. The cultural center became a magnet for African-American artists during the 1970s and '80s, and Latham received some of his dance instruction from such notables as the late Pearl Primus, Barbara Stregel, Barry Leon and Rod Rogers and also worked with many prominent dancers and African drummers in the area.

In 1988, Latham traveled to Senegal in West Africa to expand

his knowledge of African dance.

"We have truly lost a vital and instrumental link who gave to this community the tremendous gift of African dance. The cultural center mourns his passing," said Agnes M. Bain, director of the center.

Latham also had studied with the former Buffalo Regional Ballet Company and taught aerobics, ballet and dance at Empire State Ballet, the Polish Community Center, and in the Sweet Home Central School District. He taught courses and workshops in the city's schools and also was an artist in residence at Niagara University, where he taught African dance.

The cultural center's dance troupe, under Latham's direction, performed at a variety of public events and festivals throughout the area, including the Juneteenth Festival and the communitywide Kwanzaa celebrations. Latham also was active as a choreographer for theatrical productions in Buffalo and Niagara Falls.

Surviving are his parents, Melvin and Bernice; two sisters, Bonnie Cofield and Brendalynn Jackson; four brothers, Melvin of Clinton, Md., Harold, Donald and Ricky.

Memorial services will be held at noon Wednesday in the African-American Cultural Center, 350 Masten Ave.



Edward D. Lee, Postal Service retiree

A funeral for Edward D. Lee, 76, a fourth-generation member of one of Buffalo's first African-American families, was held Tuesday in Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. Lee died last Saturday (March 30, 1996) in Buffalo General Hospital after a brief illness.

Lee entered the Army after his 1939 graduation from Fosdick-Masten High School. He served in Europe. After World



War II, he attended Cornell University .

For a time, he was employed at the University of Buffalo before joining the Postal Service, from which he retired several years ago.

Lee was a coin collector and a model-train enthusiast. He was an active member of Bethel AME Zion Church and the 1490 Jefferson Senior Citizens Club.

Surviving are his wife, the former Helen Gilcreast; two daughters, Sylvia Smith and Bernette La Tulas; two sisters, Florence Duke and Henriette Gais; a brother, C. Bruce Lee of Berkeley, Calif.; and four grandchildren.

Donald R. Lee, leader in NAACP

Donald R. Lee, past president of the Buffalo Branch and the New York State Conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and retired executive secretary to a former president of the Buffalo Common Council, died Friday (March 30, 2001) in Buffalo General Hospital after a long illness. He was 66.



Born in Buffalo, he attended local schools and as a young adult quickly established himself as a civil rights leader, business consultant and political activist.

Former Common Council President George K. Arthur in 1986 appointed Lee to be his executive secretary, a post he held until his retirement in 1996. He had worked on Arthur's unsuccessful mayoral campaign.

In addition to his work in the local and state NAACP organizations, Lee was active in the Urban League and 100 Black Men of Buffalo organization. He received the local NAACP 23rd annual Medgar

Evers Civil Rights Award in 1989. He also was a recipient of the United Negro College Fund Meritorious Service Award and the Eugene T. Reed Award.

Lee also had been president of Planning Assistance Consultants of 250 Delaware Ave. The firm provided 48 minority businesses with advice in marketing, finance, construction and management in 1981.

Ten years earlier, he had been president of the state's largest privately owned minority business — the former Paper Tubes, which at one time employed 125 people. He also had served as president of the Black Development Foundation.

Survivors include his wife of 45 years, the former Annie C. Barnwell; two daughters, Markee L. Fling of Atlanta and Marianne of Buffalo; two sons, Donald R. Jr. of Jonesboro, Ga., and David R. of Atlanta; five sisters, Jeane L. Wilkinson of Mount Vernon, Roberta Downey of Sacramento, Calif., and Dolores Z. Brown, Florence L. Burrough and Alfreda A. Johnson, all of Buffalo; and two grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at 7 p.m. Monday in Amigone Funeral Home, 1132 Delaware Ave. Burial will be in Forest Lawn.

Mary Lee, Internal Revenue Service auditor

Oct. 12, 1951 — April 29, 2006



Mary V. Lee of Buffalo, an auditor for the Internal Revenue Service, died Saturday of natural causes in Millard Fillmore Hospital. She was 54.

Born in Coffee County, Ala., Miss Lee was an infant when her family moved to Buffalo. She was a graduate of East High School and earned an associate's degree in liberal arts from Erie Community College.

Miss Lee had worked for the IRS since the late 1990s. She was a member of Calvary Baptist Church.

Survivors include a son, Shawn Dowell of Buffalo; two sisters, Pecola Dingle of New York City and Debra of Buffalo; and two brothers, Richard and Nesbit, both of Buffalo.

Services will be held at 11 a.m. Friday in Calvary Baptist Church, 1184 Genesee St. Burial will be in Forest Lawn.

James Legge Sr., musician, booster of historic club

July 10, 1927 — Sept. 12, 2007



James R. Legge Sr., a local musician and backer of the Colored Musicians Club, died Wednesday in Millard Fillmore Hospital after a long illness. He

was 80.

Born in Fort Scott, Kan., Mr. Legge moved to Buffalo in the 1930s. He graduated from Technical High School in 1945 and earned a bachelor's degree in engineering from the Universi-

ty of Buffalo.

He was a Korean War-era veteran of the Army and was stationed in Texas.

From 1980 until he retired in 1986, Mr. Legge was the executive director of Buffalo Engineering Awareness for Minorities at the University at Buffalo.

A member and former president of the Colored Musicians Club, he was instrumental in the effort to get the building at Broadway and Michigan Avenue listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

For 13 years beginning in the 1970s, he played bass at the An-

chor Bar with the Johnny Gibson Group, the CQ Price Band and the Art Anderson Band. He also played at the Executive Hotel and at Salvatore's Italian Gardens.

His wife of 40 years, Betty Jean Odom Legge, died in 1997.

Survivors include three daughters, Pamela C., Vivian Lynn Jones and Betty J. Murphy; a son, James R.; and two sisters, Jeanne Legge-Taylor and Constance Black.

Services will be at 10:30 a.m. today in Amigone Funeral Home, 5200 Sheridan Drive, Amherst.



LEGGE—James R., Sr.



September 12, 2007; beloved husband of the late Betty J. (nee Odom) Legge; dearest father of Pamela C. Legge, Vivian Lynn (Gregory) Jones,

James R. (Deborah) Legge, and Betty J. (Benjamin) Murphy; loving grandfather of Christina, Bridgette, Craig, Bryan, Nicole, Taryn, and four great grandchildren; brother of Jeanne (Adis) Legge-Taylor, Constance (late Fred) Black, the late Gertrude Fort and Wade Legge Jr. The family will be present on Sunday from 4-8 PM at the (Amherst Chapel) AMIGONE FUNERAL HOME, INC., 5200 Sheridan Drive (corner Hopkins Rd.) where Funeral Services will be held on Monday at 10:30 AM. Friends Invited. Flowers are gratefully declined. If desired memorials may be made to the Roswell Park Alliance Foundation. Online register at www.Amigone.com

LEWIS—Nathan G.



December 12, 1994, dear father of Lynda (David) Jordan, Lydia (John) Davis, Mack Long, Leechia Lewis; brother of Emma G. Williams, Hattie (John) Simms; also survived by a host of other relatives. Friends are invited to the H. ALFRED LEWIS MORTUARY INC., 968 Jefferson Ave., Friday 10-11 AM where funeral services will be conducted at 11. Rev. I. Daniels officiating.

LILES—Lillie

March 30, 1998, of Buffalo, NY. Beloved mother of Dolores Gist (Earl) and Ernest Richardson (Esther); dear grandmother of Laura Gist, Frank Gist (Frances), Cynthia Gist, Edward Richardson, Marcel Redden, Marcia Johnson (Michael), Maria Richardson of CA and the late Ernest Richardson, Jr.; also survived by eight great-grandchildren and other relatives and friends. Friends may call Thursday at MEMORIAL CHAPELS OF BUFFALO, 66 E. Utica St. Family present 7-9. Funeral services Friday 11 AM from the Chapel at Forest Lawn Cemetery. Friends invited.

LOMAX—Arnella L.

September 17, 1999. Beloved wife of the late Oliver A.; dear mother of Paul, Pamela Jean and the late Eric; also survived by two nephews Umar Wilson and Duane Diggs. Family will receive friends Thursday 12 Noon at St. Phillips Episcopal Church, 15 Fernhill Ave., where funeral service will follow at 1 PM. Arrangements by H. ALFRED LEWIS MORTUARY, INC.

LOMAX—Oliver A.

July 1, 1997. Beloved husband Arnella; dear father of Pamela Stokes and Eric. The family will receive friends Saturday 10:00 AM at St. Phillips Episcopal Church, 15 Fernhill where funeral services will follow at 11:00 AM. Interment Forest Lawn Cemetery. Arrangements by H. ALFRED LEWIS MORTUARY INC.